12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

up of Jews became the favourite occupation of the legionaries. The resulting confusion helped many minor officials as well as influential business men in acquiring valuable property.

But it soon became obvious that the real masters of Rumania were the Germans. In October 1940 Antonescu invited German troops into the country as instructors for the Rumanian Army. German trade delegations began organizing Rumania's economy and German specialists were appointed to important positions in various ministries. Although Antonescu had included the Iron Guard in his government, the struggle for power between him and Horia Sima continued. In January 1941 the Iron Guard, supporting the latter, made a last bid. The legionaries rose in revolt and succeeded in gaining several strong positions in Bucarest and in some provincial towns. The army, however, sided with Antonescu, who was also aided by the Germans, and within a short time the 'Conducator' emerged as victor. He at once proceeded to the establishment of a completely military administration and based his whole regime on the army.

His success in the fight against the Iron Guard was influenced decisively by the German desire to create a stable Rumanian government which would join in the attack on the Soviet Union. Antonescu did not fail his German masters. On 22 June 1941 Rumanian troops, together with German divisions, crossed the Soviet frontier. Thanks to German support, Bessarabia and the Northern Bukovina were re-occupied within a short time. Both provinces were put under a military administration and ruled quite separately from the rest of Rumania.

[I. e. Antonescu -- Analyst]

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12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

721 Those sections of the population which had sup-
727 ported the Soviet regime were ruthlessly persecuted and the punitive measures are almost identical with those carried out in 1919.[1]

721 Politically the advance of Rumanian troops into the Ukraine and as far afield as the Caucasus put Antonescu and his propagandists in an awkward position. In order to justify the entry of Rumania into the war[2] he pointed to the necessity of recovering Bessarabia and the Northern Bukovina. The Rumanian advance farther east was defended alternatively by the assertion that the land beyond the Dniester was really Rumanian, and by the argument that Rumania could never be safe whilst the Soviet Union existed. The former line of argument carried no conviction: the latter had at first some popularity in view of the wound which the loss of Bessarabia and Bukovina had inflicted on the national pride.

While the German and Rumanian armies continued their advance into Soviet territory these excuses and justifications were accepted without public criticism, although, apart from the few out-and-out Fascists, there is no Rumanian who would really believe that he has any claim to land east of the Dniester. But the ever mounting losses of the Rumanians began to disturb the people. Losses had already been heavy in the capture of Odessa, the

[1] According to Soviet reports over 50,000 Jews and 30,000 Bessarabians have been killed since the re-occupation by Rumanian troops.

[2] Great Britain declared war on Rumania on 7 December 1941, and the United States of America followed suit on 5 June 1942.

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
EDi Rumania ED1

Crimea and Kharkov in 1941. But they became alarming when the Red Army began the great counter-offensive in the Caucasus and at Stalingrad, where five Rumanian divisions under General Lascar were wiped out or put out of action. In May 1943 Antonescu said the Rumanian losses were 500,000, referring apparently to killed and prisoners only. Since then the great German retreat has probably caused many more Rumanian losses. During 1943 the government's action in sending Rumanian troops beyond the old frontier was repeatedly condemned by the leaders of the opposition—Peasants and Liberals. The Minister of War answered these objections by saying, 'It is lucky for us that the war is so far away. If we had to fight so powerful an opponent on the Dniester or the Pruth, all Rumania would be ruins.' But within a year the avenging fate had not rested on the Pruth.

OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION. The effects of Antonescu's dictatorial regime showed themselves in all spheres of Rumanian life. Politically the country was ruled by the army generals and in all other fields by Rumanian and German big business. Military administrators replaced local government in the provinces and the towns. The Rumanian industrialists and bankers found it very profitable to work for the German war economy. Their political enemies were liquidated or driven under-ground. In the economic field their exploitation of the people and of the country's resources was only limited by Germany's interests.

Both the political and the economic life of